

*1/26/02*  
PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 039592-5113-01

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: )  
Neil W. BOAZ *et al.* )  
Prior Application No.: 09/288,642 ) Group Art Unit: 1623  
Filed: April 9, 1999 ) Examiner: R. DEEMIE  
For: PREPARATION OF C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> ALKYL )  
ESTERS OF NITRO OR THIOETHER )  
SUBSTITUTED AROMATIC )  
CARBOXYLIC ACIDS )

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to examination of this application on the merits.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 1-21 and add new claims 22-35:

22. A process for the preparation of a nitro-substituted aromatic carboxylic acid ester comprising the step of:  
reacting a nitro-substituted aryl halide, in the absence of water and oxygen, with carbon monoxide and an alcohol in the presence of a metal catalyst and a proton acceptor to form a corresponding nitro-substituted aromatic carboxylic acid ester,

wherein:

said aryl group of said nitro-substituted aryl halide is a substituted or unsubstituted, monocyclic or polycyclic aryl group or heteroaryl group containing at least one heteroatom of N, O, or S;